

# the chronicle

**Fairytale ending as Miranda pens her sequel**

– see page 3



**Near-miss Smokey now needs a new home**

– see page 5



**Crystal clear for Christmas at the Red House cone**

– see page 6



## Rudolph! Come here and give us a tow



More than 500 Santas puffed their way through Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge for the annual charity fundraiser. Story and pictures, Page 8

## Pubs and clubs may face bill for policing

STOURBRIDGE town centre pubs and clubs could soon be told to foot the bill for the extra cost of policing the area late at night at weekends – sparking an angry reaction from the owners of two major venues.

The town's MP, Margot James, is urging Dudley Council to charge venues to cover the £106,000 a year extra it costs to make sure the police keep order on Friday and Saturday nights in Stourbridge town centre, which has the borough's biggest concentration of late night bars.

Her call follows the announcement by James Brokenshire, minister for crime prevention, of new powers giving local authorities the power to impose a levy. Dudley Council's deputy leader, Councillor Les Jones, said the authority would consider it.

But the Wetherspoons pub chain, which owns the Lloyds No 1 Bar and The Chequers in Stourbridge High

Street, reacted angrily. Spokesman Eddie Gershon said: "Wetherspoons pays tens of millions of pounds in business rates across the UK and a percentage of that money is for policing. We don't feel that we as a company should be asked to pay more."

Roger Bishton, general manager of the new Desire Nightclub, in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, said he would rather not pay more but understood the reason for the proposed legislation.

"The police do a great job and we appreciate their presence," said Mr Bishton. "I would not mind contributing to their bill."

Councillor Jones said: "We expect bar owners and businesses to operate in a responsible fashion. It is reasonable to ask businesses for a contribution towards the cost and we will look in detail at this new legislation."

Margot James said she would like to see the council use the powers "to reduce the impact of the late night economy on residents".

# FOUNDER OF HOSPICE DIES

By Tim Spiers

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## Blast rocks town centre

AN EXPLOSION caused chaos in Dudley town centre when a manhole cover was hurled through the air, smashing two shop windows.

It led to the closure of part of a busy shopping street. Two workers were treated for shock after the underground explosion on Tuesday.

Dozens of workers turned up to find a 300-yard section of the High Street between Stone Street and Stafford Street, cordoned off by police.

An electrical fault in an underground sub-station caused the blast which blew off a manhole cover outside WH Smith, smashing two of the shop's windows.

Witnesses reported seeing flames leap from the manhole with plumes of smoke filling the area at about 7.30am. The

road closure caused long queues of traffic which stretched along Stafford Street, The Inghed and Vicar Street, while delays were also caused on the Dudley Southern Bypass.

Jane Walsh, aged 35, who was walking down the High Street when the explosion happened, said: "I heard this huge bang and breaking glass."

"I turned round and saw these flames coming out of the manhole. It was really scary."

West Midlands Ambulance Service treated two people at the scene for shock. Investigations were carried out into the electrical supply for the High Street to make sure it is safe.

Santander bank worker Mark Terry said: "It's quite a shock to turn up for work and see all this going on."

A charity pioneer and Dudley alderman whose determined nature influenced people and organisations in Stourbridge has died.

Jock Poyner, MBE, was a former mayor of Stourbridge, secretary of Stourbridge FC and joint-founder of Mary Stevens Hospice.

He passed away at Russells Hall Hospital last week aged 89.

Edinburgh-born Mr Poyner was described as being "very approachable, pleasant and positive thinking".

His son David said: "He was very much a loving family man who gave me and my brother (Jonathan) so much encouragement."

"He always gave a lot of pleasure to other people through what he did."

As well as being heavily involved in football, education, charity and politics, Mr Poyner was a Second World War pilot who flew in Lancaster bombing operations.

After the war he played football semi-professionally for West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City,

before playing for Stourbridge and Brierley Hill. He became secretary of Stourbridge FC until 1973.

He taught at Hill Street School, Stourbridge, and Crabbe Street School, Lye, and was headteacher at Tenterfields Primary School, Halesowen, until his retirement in 1982.

In 1968 he became the youngest mayor in Stourbridge's history and served two terms until 1970. The Pedmore resident was made an honorary alderman by Dudley Council and was awarded the MBE in 1997.

The longest-lasting of his legacies will be Mary Stevens Hospice, which he helped to establish in 1985. "I never got an answer out of dad as to why he set up the hospice," added 53-year-old David, who lives in Cheshire.

"Someone once called him 'Mr Stourbridge' for all he'd done for the town and I think that about sums him up."

After jointly forming the hospice, Mr Poyner became company secretary and sat on the board until 2002. Gwynne

Dellis, chairman of the board of trustees at Mary Stevens, said: "Bearing in mind his influential standing in the area, to have devoted that much time to the hospice will make us eternally grateful."

"You couldn't have found a person more devoted to the cause."

"He was a very impressive man; co-operative, helpful, respected and revered and very much appreciated for his kindness, consideration and thoughtfulness. Jock was a splendid chap."

Councillor Peter Miller, mayor of Dudley, added: "Jock was a wonderful man who did a great deal for Stourbridge and spent a lifetime helping people. He was made an honorary alderman of the borough due to his outstanding services to Stourbridge and he will be sadly missed."

Mr Poyner's first wife, Harvina Guest, died in May 1969. He leaves a widow, Dr Brenda Clarke, two sons, three stepchildren, 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His funeral will be on Tuesday (December 21) at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, at 11.30am.

## Councillor so sorry in row over race joke

A DUDLEY Conservative councillor has suspended himself from the party after an email sent to council members as a joke sparked a racism row.

Halesowen Councillor Ken Turner last week apologised for the "error" and said he would attend a cultural awareness course.

The Hayley Green and Cradley South member has been referred to Dudley Council's standards committee by Labour Councillor Tim Crumpton, who branded the joke "disgusting".

Councillor Turner circulated an email on December 2 on his council account to all councillors containing what was called a joke about a Somali immigrant.

It described it as "maybe the best joke of the year".

It talks of a Somali immigrant in London who asks a series of people if they are British before being told by an African lady all the British are probably "at

work". Councillor Turner said he would not step down. "It was a joke that I thought would maybe raise a titter but when I heard that someone may have taken offence to it I instantly apologised."

"It was an error and I realise that. I will let the procedures take their course and I am going to attend a diversity awareness course."

He said he had been under pressure because members of his family were receiving hospital treatment and he had also been devoting up to 12 hours a day to his public duties.

### Disgrace

"All I would say is I hope the opposition have a happy Christmas," he said.

Councillor Crumpton said: "This is a racist joke and it is disgusting."

"For a senior councillor to have sent out something like this goes beyond the pale."

"With all that happened in Dudley over the past few years with the EDL, this is a disgrace."



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# Robber is jailed for raid at convenience store

A ROBBER has been jailed for nearly two years for his role in an armed raid at a Black Country convenience store.

Rickeal Manning, aged 20, was part of a gang that raided the Select & Save, in Sadlers Close, Halesowen, on May 6.

He was sentenced to 20 months in prison by Wolverhampton Crown Court last week after pleading guilty to robbery at a previous hearing. Two other men involved in the robbery, 21-year-old Keiron Campbell and Conrad Powell, aged 22, have already been jailed for 40 months.

But Judge Michael Dudley decided on a

lesser sentence for Manning after hearing he had taken a more peripheral role.

The court was told Manning, of Rothsay Croft, Birmingham, had been recruited by Campbell and Powell on the day of the robbery and had not been told of the plan to rob the store until he was in the car on the way there.

## Ashamed

Mr David Lees, prosecuting, said the raiders had entered the store and one had grabbed owner Jasmina Kaur by the arm.

One of the tills on the counter was emptied and a second raider, armed with a metal bar, also grabbed Mrs Kaur's sister, before prising open a second till.

Mr Lees said although Manning was one of the men who entered the store he had not manhandled the two women.

"Essentially the defendant was the third man. He was masked and remained in the main area of the store while this was happening."

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said Manning was "genuinely remorseful".

Judge Michael Dudley told him: "I accept you are ashamed of your conduct."

## Jazzing it up at the pub

A POPULAR Stourbridge jazz band will be swinging by a Norton pub for a special performance. Bobby Johnson's Jential Jazz will be at the Broadway pub, The Broadway, Norton, on Tuesday December 28, from 1pm for the free annual gig.

The five-piece group will present a host of songs including some festive covers. Refreshments will be available alongside a raffle and plate collection for the musicians.

## Car park stays shut in freeze

THE rooftop car park in Stourbridge town centre has been closed to the public throughout the cold snap as cash-strapped Dudley Council cannot afford the equipment to defrost it.

The parking area, linked to the multi-storey car park in Bell Street, needs to be treated with a special ice-melting chemical.

Traditional rock salt would melt the roofing

material and cause leaks into the Crown Lane registry office below.

Council spokesman Phil Parker said the authority could not justify the expense when there were still parking spaces available in the adjoining Bell Street car park.

"The flat roof car park is closed due to the severe frost and it cannot simply be gritted and opened up," he said.

## Rare birds go north to breed

SIX rare penguins from Dudley Zoo have moved to North Yorkshire as part of an international conservation programme. The Humboldt penguins were transferred from Castle Hill to Flamingo Land, Malton.

The zoo's colony of 60-plus parent-reared Humboldts is one of the largest in the UK. It started 19 years ago with a few hand-reared birds.

## New clothing banks at centre



Seen at the new Mary Stevens Hospice clothing bank at the Merry Hill are from back left; Darren Spittle from Metal Masters (clothing bank manufacturers), national facilities manager Brian Pell from Westfield, with recycling manager Lisa Wilkinson from the Hospice

NEW clothing banks aimed at boosting donations for a Black Country hospice have been introduced at the Merry Hill Centre in Dudley.

The three banks in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice follow supporters' concerns about leaving donations outside their homes to be collected.

Many had told the hospice they were worried that their items didn't make it to the charity.

Hospice business manager Simon Henwood said the banks would make it easier for people to donate unwanted clothes, shoes, bags and bric-a-brac to be sold in their 15 shops.

## Profits

The banks, donated by Metal Masters of Brierley Hill, are now sited in three areas of the centre - on Station Drive, next to America Golf, outside Nando's food court and by the entrance near Argos.

Mr Henwood said: "Time and again people express their frustration at not knowing where their donations are going."

As a part of the larger strategy to keep the local hospice doors open during the economic downturn, we are taking the initiative in addressing this, as all donations collected from these, and other sites will be taken to the hospice shops and all profits will go direct to the hospice."

## Homes plan is unveiled by firm

A £4 MILLION housing development will be built on a Dudley estate under new plans.

Bromsgrove-based WM Housing wants permission for 22 homes and a 14-bed sheltered accommodation unit in Middlepark Road.

Midland Heart is building a £4.5 million retirement village a short distance from the proposed development site.

WM Housing wants to build 15 new houses, seven bungalows and a 14-bed building providing sheltered accommodation.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council.

The firm said if permission was granted work would get under way in the spring or summer.

## Salon

Kat La Tzsar, area new business manager for WM Housing, said: "The site has been earmarked for housing by Dudley Council."

A report by agent David Wint, Quattro Design Architects Ltd, says: "The scheme has been designed to provide affordable and supported housing for the area."

The £16million Midland Heart scheme in Middlepark Road will have 132 apartments and will provide a range of care for the over-55s. Work is expected to be completed in summer 2011.

A similar development, worth £8 million, is under way in Whitehouse Street, Coleley. It will have facilities such as hair and beauty salon, gyms and a library.

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# Doomed firm is to shed jobs by Christmas

A DOOMED Stourbridge car parts firm could close down its castings operation this week, with many of the 40 workers losing their jobs by Christmas.

Caparo Aluminium Technologies Ltd has started winding down in preparation for complete closure in the new year.

All casting work will finish before Christmas – possibly even this week. Site director John Wood said the company was “on schedule”, with manufacturing work at the plant due to finish in January and complete closure by the end of March. Forty workers at the site in Wollaston High Street will lose their jobs when it closes, many of them in the next two weeks.

## Thousands miss live Corrie show as power fails

THOUSANDS of homes in Lye were plunged into darkness after three separate power cuts hit the region – as the 50th anniversary live episode of Coronation Street aired.

Around 3,000 homes in Lye were cut off at 7.50pm on Thursday, December 9, just before the historic hour-long special started. The problem was caused by a fault on a high-voltage underground cable.

Power was restored at 9.10pm, 10 minutes after the programme finished.

Residents were “disappointed” to miss the show, which pulled in 15 million viewers.

Kerry Bradley, aged 35, of Talbot Street, Lye, was looking forward to

watching it with her children when the power went off.

“It flickered back on for a few seconds at about five to eight and we cheered because we thought we would be able to watch. But we were gutted when it quickly went off again,” she said. Julie Berrington, 38, and daughters, Demi, 15, and Courtney, 12, were also plunged into darkness at home in Chapel Street, Lye. “We were really looking forward to it – so we were angry and disappointed to miss it,” she said.

Restaurants and pubs in Lye were also hit along with homes in Wolverhampton and Walsall.

Central Networks apologised for the cut.

## Shining star Miranda back home



Katrina Blakeway, owner of Harvest Moon, left, with author Miranda Dickinson

BEST-SELLING author Miranda Dickinson met fans and signed copies of her latest book when she returned to her home town.

The 37-year-old from Wollaston, Stourbridge, was celebrating the release of her second novel Welcome to My World.

The book, which follows her successful debut Fairy-

tale in New York, shot straight into the Sunday Times Top 20 list just a week after it was launched.

Speaking at the book signing session at Harvest Moon in Victoria Passage, Stourbridge on Saturday, she said: “It’s a fun, light-hearted read for anyone who knows Kingswinford and Wollaston because they

will recognise shops and pubs I’ve written into the town at the centre of Welcome to My World.”

“I am proud of Stourbridge and where I come from. It’s extra special to meet fans in Stourbridge.”

Her first book was discovered on Authorionomy.com which is a site for unpublished writers.

### Foundry

Caparo was due to move to the Grainger and Worrall foundry in Bridgnorth in March 2011 – but that date will now signal the end of operations.

The move to Bridgnorth had been mooted after the company announced it was unable to comply with the conditions of a permit imposed by Dudley Council following complaints from residents about noise and smells from the factory.

### Sand

Hundreds of complaints were lodged by residents who claimed noise, foul odours and sand blowing from the premises were unacceptable.

The council granted a permit last year imposing conditions on emissions and spillages.

A stricter set of conditions was then introduced in May.

Mr Wood said it had been “impossible” to find the £2million needed for work to meet the conditions.

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## Teacher's novel on sale

A FORMER art teacher from Dudley has published his first novel.

Alec Hilton's "Eight Minute Farm" is a mystery novel surrounding a young man in the 1980s who experiences the bizarre phenomenon of "physical displacement" while returning home from holiday.

A thousand copies of the novel have now been published. Mr Hilton, of Roberts Green Road, Lower Gornal said he had always enjoyed a good

mystery. "I have always enjoyed writing," he said. "The book took about 18 months to write, but the idea came to my mind decades ago after watching a television programme."

He has had several short stories published, including a mini-series in the Independent, but felt that he was only able to concentrate on his idea seriously after retiring.

For more information, visit website [www.troubador.co.uk](http://www.troubador.co.uk)

# Tribute to stalwart of village theatre group

## Smokey in hunt for new home

TWO kittens are on the lookout for loving homes after being handed in to a vet's.

A 12-week-old tabby and white kitten was found wandering in Springfield Grove, Sedgley.

Staff at the St George's Vet's in St George's Parage, Wolverhampton, where the kitten has been cared for since November 29, have named her Tabatha.

They are also caring for another new arrival, a six-month-old male cat who narrowly escaped being run over on Birmingham New Road on Monday.

He has been named Smokey because of his grey coat.

Michelle Cox, a receptionist at the practice, said: "They are two lovely cats. The little girl is quite relaxed while the boy is very, very active."

"They would both make marvellous pets."

Anybody who can help is urged to call the practice on 01902 425262.



Michelle Cox, from St George's Vets, with cat Smokey

A CHARTERED accountant and stalwart of amateur theatre in the Midlands has died aged 68.

Tributes were paid to "gentle giant" Geoffrey Alliband who spent more than 15 years treading the boards with Kinver Light Operatic Society.

Born in Darby End, Netherton, he attended the former Sir Gilbert Claughton School, Blowers Green Road, Dudley, where he was head boy in 1958. He qualified as a chartered accountant and worked at Dudley firm Stephenson, Nock & Higgs, and later Deloitte in Birmingham.

Mr Alliband, of Heather Drive, Kinver, took semi-retirement 10 years ago but continued to work for a small number of clients.

Referee

He was a member of the Kinver operatic society for 20 years, taking part in a variety of productions and was also a president of Brierley Hill Rotary Club.

A keen sportsman, he enjoyed playing at Envile Golf Club and was also a football referee in the Dudley and Cradley Heath League.

The Wolves fan also founded the Edgecliff Eagles football team, which later became Kinver Colts, in 1980.

Mr Alliband, who died on November 29, leaves wife Barbara, children Adrian, Helen, and David,

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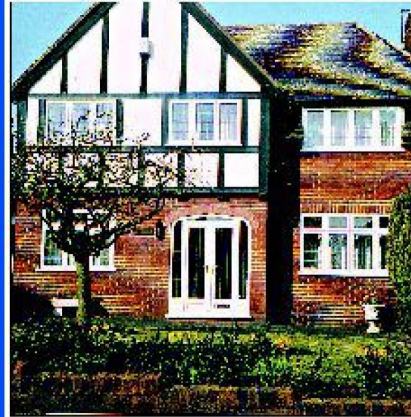
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## Robbery terror for girl, 12, on phone

A THUG who snatched a phone from a terrified 12-year-old girl at Dudley bus station as been warned that he could be locked up.

Roy Thomas, aged 18, of Nagersfield Road, Brierley Hill, who admitted stealing the phone on April 22, already had convictions for attempted sexual assault, indecent exposure and assault.

Mark Rees, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court last week: "The girl was trying to contact friends on her phone when she was approached by the defendant."

"She was nervous and tried to shuffle away, but he made a grab and ripped her mobile phone out of her hand."

The girl later told police officers: "My legs turned to jelly."

Two weeks later the girl saw Thomas again in Dudley and alerted police, said Mr Rees.

"Officers drove her around the town and she spotted the defendant and he was arrested."

Jodie Smith, defending, said Thomas had mental issues, and asked for a psychiatric report to be prepared before sentencing.

The case was adjourned until January 18.

## Bedding blaze

A COUPLE were led to safety from a house in Dudley after bedding caught fire. Fire crews were called to Stourbridge Road on Friday night. The pair suffering the effect of smoke inhalation and were taken to hospital as a precaution.

# Drivers penalised over using street as rat run

MORE than 1,000 warning letters have been dished out by police to motorists using an illegal rat-run in Dudley.

Blackacre Road residents have been complaining to West Midlands Police and the council for more than 18 months.

Commuters use the residential street as a cut-through to the town centre from Dixon's Green, despite road signs warning them it is for residents' use only.

Now police have launched a crackdown on drivers using the route as a rat-run. They have given warning letters and even

finest to drivers caught using the road when they should not.

Officers have been patrolling the area and in the space of just three days at the beginning of the month 990 letters were given to the drivers of cars travelling along the street.

A further 200 letters have been distributed since then.

Police are sending warning letters in the first instance before fining drivers £40 if they break the rules again.

Sgt Warren Lambeth said: "People have been telling us that this is a real problem for people living in the area and so we are making sure officers are out there, and are tackling the issue."

"So far we have given out more than 1,000 letters warning people that we are conducting patrols in the area and will be giving fixed penalty notices to anyone flouting the traffic laws around Blackacre Road."

"While we concede that a handful of those may well be legitimately travelling to homes or businesses in the area, I am fairly certain that the vast majority would not have been."

"We have already given 12 fines to motorists and we will continue to tackle thoughtless behaviour which is causing inconvenience and upset."

## New system in battle on theft

POLICE in Dudley have launched a communication system has been launched to combat stolen jewellery and watches being bought and sold at reputable shops. Officers use it to inform traders about stolen items.

## Blaze destroys narrowboat

A NARROWBOAT was destroyed by fire near Stourbridge after a wood burner was used to heat it.

Dudley, Brierley Hill, Kinver and Tamworth fire crews went to Greensforge Lane, near Stourton, at 10.20am last Tuesday, December 7, but the 40ft boat on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal was gutted.

Firefighters said a wood burner used to heat the boat had probably been left on. No-one was hurt.

## Walk-in centre cuts pressures on A&E

MORE than 30,000 patients have been treated at Dudley's Walk-in Centre in 12 months helping relieve hospital emergency department pressure and speed up ambulance response times.

West Midlands Ambulance Service praised the clinic for helping free up crews to respond to 999 calls as patient handovers take less time.

It has also cut the number of patients going to the accident and emergency depart-

ment at Russells Hall Hospital with less serious conditions.

Chest infections, rashes, minor cuts and injuries, breathing difficulties and vomiting can all be dealt with at the walk-in clinic in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

In three months ambulance bosses say they have taken more than 40 patients to the centre instead of to hospital. Others were referred by GPs.

## Glass cone's sparkling makeover



In Father Christmas's grotto at the Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley, is museum assistant Jacky Dymock

A WINTER wonderland has been created at the Red House Glass Cone with a special crystal grotto installed for Santa.

Father Christmas will be welcoming children every Saturday and Sunday at the attraction in High Street, Wordsley, until this Sunday, December 19.

Youngsters who go along will receive a gift and will also be able to enjoy a craft activity, Christmas trail, self-guided tour of the historic site and glassmaking demonstrations.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture at Dudley Council, said: "The Santa experience at the cone is getting more popular every year."

The cone is also hosting the All I Want For Christmas show-case, which is a collection of cut and contemporary studio glass and "Made @ The Cone" gifts.

Places to visit Santa need to be booked on 01384 812750. Log on to [www.dudley.gov.uk/museums](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/museums) to find out more.

## Region is the most obese in Europe

OBESITY levels in the West Midlands are the highest in Europe, new figures reveal.

The statistics from the Association of Public Health Observatories show that the UK is the fattest member of the EU. And the West Midlands has the highest level of obesity in the UK.

The survey compared all regions across 27 countries in Europe using 37 health indicators in 2006.

The UK scored particularly badly on obesity – the fattest nation of all.

Within the UK the West Midlands had the highest percentage of obese adults at 29 per cent – more than double the EU average of 14 per cent.

## Infant

The UK also performs badly on female cancer survival and infant deaths. Its female death rates from cancer were also shown to be among the worst in Europe.

But life expectancy in the UK is slightly better than for EU counterparts; the nation excels at treating heart disease and its early action on smoking has had a very positive impact.

Professor Steve Field of the Royal College of General Practitioners, a practising GP at the Bellevue Medical Centre in inner-city Birmingham, said: "I feel ashamed as a GP working in the West Midlands that this area has the highest percentage of obese adults in Europe."



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Monday-Friday: 9.00-4.00 pm: 21 Feb-25 Feb: 5 Days: £450: **Not Available**

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Reiki Training	20 February	9.00-5.00 pm	£95
Reiki Training	20 July	9.00-5.00 pm	£95
Reiki Training	21 & 22 April	9.00-5.00 pm	£250
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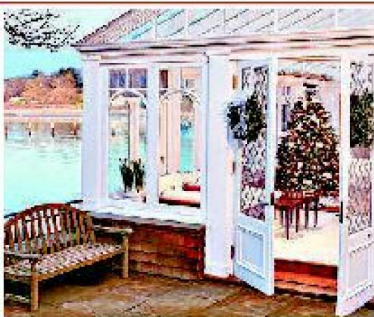


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### thechronicle

## Drivers set for African adventure as terror threat recedes



Simon Lisseter and Adam Rogers, together with their black Alfa Romeo, prepare for their once-in-a-lifetime rally to Dakar

TWO Black Country adventurers are hoping it will be second time lucky after terror threats put the brakes on their international rally dreams.

Adam Rogers and Simon Lisseter will finally be heading off on the once-in-a-lifetime charity expedition from Plymouth to Dakar this weekend.

They were thwarted in their efforts to undertake the three-week trip last year after the Home Office recommended no travel to Mauritania in Africa, through which the duo were due to drive.

The rating was upgraded from essential travel only due to fears al Qaeda was planning to kidnap Westerners. Several Europeans had already been taken earlier in the year.

One year on, the intrepid pair

have dusted off their customised black Alfa Romeo as the situation is believed to be safer, although there will be a military escort through Mauritania.

Mr Rogers, aged 27, from Wordsley, and 31-year-old Mr Lisseter, from Halesowen, will travel to Plymouth, head through Spain, Morocco, Western Sahara, Senegal and Mauritania before ending in the former British colony of Gambia. At the finish, the 1993

car, which the pair bought for £100, will be auctioned by rally organisers. Sponsorship will be added to the sale car and all funds awarded to charities in Gambia.

### Gutted

Mr Rogers, who works for Torquil Clark independent financial advisers in Wolverhampton, said: "We were gutted when last year's trip was called off, but we decided to hang onto

the Alfa in the hopes that we might be able to take part this year. Simon and I have been friends for a long time - but we've never spent three weeks cooped up in a car together.

"So we're hoping that as well as keeping the car on the road, we don't drive each other mad. It really will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure."

To donate equipment visit the website at [www.blackalfa.co.uk](http://www.blackalfa.co.uk)

## Why Santas are out on the run

CRIES of "ho, ho, ho" could be heard echoing through a Black Country park as more than 500 fundraisers donned red suits and beards to take part in a charity Santa jog.

Despite the frosty weather, supporters turned out in droves for the event in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

After a much-needed warm-up with a fitness instructor they set off on the 5km route around the town's Mary Stevens Park.

Among those taking part were Andy Duffield, aged 49 with his wife Gail, 48, and two daughters Becky, 23, and Emily, aged 16, from Wrens Avenue, Tipton.

### Friends

They were part of a group of more than 30 friends and family of Lee Harvey, a 51-year-old warehouse manager and fanatical West Bromwich Albion support from Tipton, who died from cancer last month.

Mr Duffield, an accounts manager, said: "We have raised £4,000 for charity in Lee's memory."

"He was a great friend and a keen sportsman. We all miss him."

Shop worker Matt Spencer from Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, was joined by daughters



Olivia Haywood, dressed in her Santa outfit, getting covered in fake snow



Stourbridge choral and orchestral society entertains before the job

Amy Brown, aged 14 and Lily Spencer, aged seven, for the festive run.

The 35-year-old said: "It was the first time we had taken part in the Santa Jog and it was a lot of fun."

"I am sure we will be joining in every year now."

Also stepping out in aid of the

hospice was carer Philip Clinton, aged 38, who was joined by wife Ruth, aged 37, and children Isabella, seven, and Nathan, six.

"It is such a good cause to support."

"We wanted to do our bit to help the charity in the spirit of Christmas," said Mr Clinton, of

Wollaston, Stourbridge. A group from Sandwell charity NACRO, which supports young parents, also took part.

Sponsorship money from the event is still being collected by the hospice.

Organisers are hoping to beat last year's total of £12,000.



Friends and family of Lee Harvey, from Tipton, who died of cancer last month, were out in force to run in his memory





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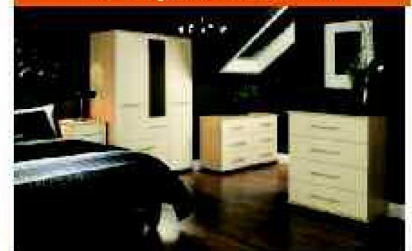
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## thechronicle

# Sacrifice of heroic brother now recognised at last

BRIMMING with pride and filled with belief, it was a proud day when Lance Corporal Alan James Taylor donned his uniform for the first time in front of the mirror.

And looking at his older brother in his peaked cap, testing out the fit of his uniform in front of mum, eight-year-old Ken Taylor was filled with awe.

### Gentle

Mr Taylor, of The Broadway in Norton in Stourbridge, remembers his older brother as a gentle giant, inspired to sign up for service after the Second World War.

But it was a bitter turf war in Palestine that robbed Mr Taylor and his family of their beloved Alan, who at the age of just 19 was shot by a terrorist sniper while serving with the Grenadier Guards, on January 15, 1948.

And Mr Taylor still feels the sting of the terrible loss. A



When Alan was buried after he was killed in Palestine in 1948

The brother of a Black Country soldier killed more than 60 years ago has spoken of his pride at receiving an Elizabeth Cross medal in his honour.

retired shopkeeper now 70, he said: "I still find it difficult to talk about it."

"The night it happened, or the night we were told it had happened, my father Harry had taken my brother Geoffrey and I out to watch a Laurel and Hardy film, and we had come back giggling and in high humour. When we came home, we came in to a darkened house, and my mother Evelyn was sat in a room on her own."

"She was crying her eyes out." The responsibility of maintaining order in Palestine was laid at Britain's door when a British Mandate for Palestine was confirmed by the council of the League of Nations on July 24, 1922.

As the Jewish population grew, so did Palestinian resentment which grew into a bloody civil war, between 1947-48.

British troops were caught in the crossfire. They eventually withdrew in 1948, but not before thousands of dedicated soldiers lost their lives, including Mr Taylor's big brother.

He casts his mind back to his brother's caring nature. He said: "He was a wonderful man, full of compassion. He was caring and he was fun."

### Peaked

"He looked the man in his steep peaked cap but I can remember him as an animal lover. One of my early memories is him picking up a bird and mending its broken wing."

Mr Taylor received an Elizabeth Cross and a memorial scroll at a ceremony in honour of his brother at West Bromwich Albion ground, The Hawthorns.

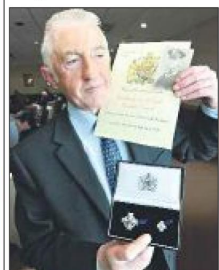
Attending with his sons Jason, 39, Alan, 50, and 19-



Alan Taylor, aged 18

year-old grand-daughter Sarah, he was proud that the country had finally recognised his brother's sacrifice.

He said: "I will be travelling out to Israel to visit the grave. I will take the medals with me and I will place them on the grave. I hope that will be closure. It has been lurking at the back of my mind since I was eight."



Ken Taylor receives the scroll

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## Trees treat as church greets festive visitors



Liz Williams and son Jonathan get ready for the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Parish Church

A CHURCH in Sedgley is inviting residents to join in their Christmas Tree Festival which runs until this Saturday.

Twenty-five Christmas trees have been delivered to All Saints' Parish Church for the festival. Many businesses have sponsored trees, which have been put up in all parts of the church.

One tree will be reserved for those wishing to remember a loved one by attaching their name.

Martin Jones, one of the festival organisers, said: "It will be a great opportunity for everyone in Sedgley to get into the Christmas spirit."

"The festival is free to get in but visitors are encouraged to donate to the Biblelands charity if they wish."

Another attraction at the event is an exhibition of drawings by 92-year-old Ron Baker of scenes from old Sedgley, seen alongside photos of the same locations as they look today.

Memories of local Sedgley residents have been collected at a 'reminiscence session' and a second one is due on Saturday. The church in Vicar Street is open from 11am-3pm.

## Council advice via television

PEOPLE can get in touch with Dudley Council and report issues via their television. Sky subscribers can go to the Community Channel on 539 and access Dudley Council's Digi TV site through the red button. The service available to residents across the borough with digital television or access to the internet. It provides free, 24-hour communication with the council and it can be used to report problems such as litter, criminal damage, missed bin collections and housing repairs and request services.

# Help for Black Country still on way says leader

COUNCILS and business leaders across the Black Country are pressing ahead with proposals to set up a local enterprise partnership to replace the £300 million-a-year quango Advantage West Midlands.

A bid to create a Black Country LEP comprising the four council leaders of Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall plus at least five business chiefs, was rejected by Business Secretary Vince Cable last month while he approved 24 of 62 other bids.

Local authority and business leaders behind the Black Country LEP blueprint were told to "develop their proposals further" because of concerns they did not do enough to consult with the thousands of small firms in the area.

Stewart Towe, who would be chairman of the local enterprise partnership, said: "I am confident of success."

However, it is believed that both Mr Cable and the Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, want the Black Country to join with Greater Birmingham.

The Government's decision to scrap regional development agencies, including AWM as part of its cull of quangos, has met a mixed reaction. James Morris, Conservative MP for Halesowen & Rowley Regis, is backing the new approach

## Focus on winter magical scenes

STUNNING winter scenes taken by photographers across the Dudley borough are on display on the council's website.

Images of landmarks and locations in the snow and ice have been gathered from Dudley Council's flickr group.

More than 200 images have been added to the winter photos of Dudley borough flickr group on [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) from more than 140 local photographers.

They include snowy snaps and icy images of Himley Hall, Bumble Hole nature reserve, Dudley Castle and Mary Stevens Park.

The pictures are being used as a rolling display on the banners on all the council's web pages after being transferred from the social networking site.

Councillor Les Jones, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "We have always celebrated local landmarks by using pictures of them at the top of all our internet pages. The winter has brought with it some stunning scenery captured by really talented local photographers."

"We wanted to showcase that by using their work as part of the council's website."

The council has been using flickr to celebrate and images from across the borough. It includes thousands of pictures shared by people from around the borough, as well as groups such as winter pictures, the Mayor of Dudley and Dudley borough glass contributed by the council.

People can join a number of groups on the council's flickr page and contribute pictures to it.

## Peter tort us all we know say briefs



Former lecturer Peter Smith, centre, with ex-students from Wolverhampton Polytechnic

A DOZEN legal eagles – including one from Dubai, another from Jersey and a third from Scotland – swooped in for a reunion in Dudley, more than three decades after leaving Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

The lawyers, who all graduated in 1977, met up at The Park Inn, Woodsetton, to celebrate the 60th birthday of lecturer Peter Smith, who now lives in the Highlands.

They then went on to the Lamp Tavern, Dudley, and Ma Pardo's, in Netherton, finishing off with a meal at the French Hen,

Clent, near Stourbridge. Among the 12 were Colin Barr, who now works in Dubai, and Lewis Buckley, who is based in Jersey.

"We have a very close kinship which has lasted through the years," said Kevin Drew, of Sedgley, now a property lawyer with Turner Cary in West Bromwich.

"We used to go every year for real ale and a meal at Clent and we met up again in 2007 for the 30th anniversary of our graduation. But we decided to come together again this year for Peter's 60th birthday."

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## STRICTLY COME DANCING

BBC1, 7pm

It may not have generated quite so many headlines as The X Factor, but it's still been a very good year for Strictly Come Dancing. Unlike in 2009, there were no agonising arguments creating bad press before the series had even started, while the celebrity lineup was arguably the starriest to date. And of course, there was Ann Widdecombe. While some dance purists were annoyed that she stayed while more talented performers got voted out, no one can deny that her routine created a talking point. But now the final is here, will the audience still be in the mood for a laugh, or are things about to get very serious indeed?

**6.00 Breakfast** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. **11.30** **Nigella Kitchen** (F) **12.00** **BBC News**: Regional News/Weather. **2.00** **Football Focus**. **3.00** **Sports Personality of the Year**: The Contender (F) **4.00** **Olympic International Horse Show**. **5.00** **Film: The Game Plan** (2007) **6.30** **Film: Score**. Roundup of football results. **8.00** **BBC News**: Regional News/Weather. **8.30** **Total Wipeout** - Celebrity Special.

**6.30 The Inbetweeners Show with Chris Brown and Stephen Lee**. Join Cudshaw and Debra Stephenson impersonate famous faces. (F)

**7.00 Strictly Come Dancing**. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the final of the contest, in which the three couples vie for the glitterball trophy with an array of dazzling dances. Last in the series.

**8.00 The National Lottery**. **Scratchy Mega Draws**. With musical guest Tina Turner.

**8.15 Comedy**. **Uncle** makes an important decision about her future.

**8.30 Strictly Come Dancing**. This year's champions are revealed. Last in the series.

**10.00 BBC O'Clock News**. **10.25 Look at the Day**. Including highlights of Liverpool v Fulham.

**10.30 National Lottery Update**. **11.00 The Football League Show**.

**1.00 The Apprentice** (F). **Weather**. **2.00** **Sign Zone**. **Operation Mindcrack** (F) **3.00** **The Big Stereo** (F) **4.00** **Fish Stink**. **Corinth Christmas** (F) **4.00** **BBC News**.

**6.00 CBeebies**. **7.00 CBBC**. **10.00 BBC Switch**. **The Cut**. **10.30 BBC Switch**. **Rules of Love**. **1.00 BBC Switch**. **The 5.10 Show**. **2.00 Bargain Hunt** (F) **2.30** **Escape to the Country** (F) **3.00** **At Home with the Georgians** (F) **4.00** **One Man and His Dog**. **5.00** **Film: The Gun of Navarone** (1961).

**8.00 Don't Awak**. Fraser is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother organises a charity party for local dignitaries. **Classico** comedy starring Arthur Lowe. (F)

**8.10 Blackadder II**. Edmund Blackadder, continuing his courtesies to Queen Elizabeth I, takes a spirited young lad on as his manservant - unaware the fellow is not quite what he seems. (F)

**9.15 How I Met a Girl Here**. **News at 9pm**. Alexander Armstrong hosts an extended version of the satirical current affairs quiz, with comedian Rocco Hunt.

**9.30 Comedy**. **Uncle** makes an important decision about her future.

**9.30 Strictly Come Dancing**. This year's champions are revealed. Last in the series.

**10.00 CBBC**. With Bill Bailey. **Rich Hall and Rob Brydon** (F).

**10.15 BBC News**. **10.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **10.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **11.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **11.15** **Believe in the Bible**. **11.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **11.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **12.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **12.15** **Believe in the Bible**. **12.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **12.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **1.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **1.15** **Believe in the Bible**. **1.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **1.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **2.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **2.15** **Believe in the Bible**. **2.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **2.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **3.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **3.15** **Believe in the Bible**. **3.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **3.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **4.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **4.15** **Believe in the Bible**. **4.30** **Believe in the Bible**. **4.45** **Believe in the Bible**. **5.00** **Believe in the Bible**. **5.15** **Believe in the 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# Sunday TV

findmetv



"Without a doubt, the best and easiest to use TV guide on Apple's mobile... The interface is superb" T3 App Chart

Available on the App Store

App for Apple iPhone and iPod touch requires an Apple ID, requires the iOS 4.0 or later version, App Store search results of Apple Inc.

## Choice BBC1 BBC2 ITV1 Channel 4 Channel 5 Digital



### SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

BBC1, 7pm

Wherever this show is broadcast, fans know that Christmas is just around the corner – but who will be celebrating the festive season with a shiny new trophy on the mantelpiece as well as a turkey in the oven? In the running (and on the punt) for the main award are the likes of Jessica Ennis, Tom Daley, AP McCoy, and Graeme McDowell, and expect to see reports about various sporting events from the past 12 months, such as the European Ryder Cup team triumph over the US, this year's Wimbledon and England's trip during the World Cup in South Africa.

**6.00 Breakfast.** 22.5 Match of the Day (F) **6.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Sir Cliff Richard. **11.00** Country Tracks. **12.00** BBC News. **12.05** Wild Weather of the Midlands. **12.25** EastEnders. **1.25** Drop Zone. **4.25** Drop Zone. **4.25** Lifestream. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** BBC News. **Regional News/Weather.** **5.10** Jimmy's Food Factory (F)

**6.00 Countryfile Winter Special.** The team experience winter on North Uist in the Outer Hebrides, where Matt Baker learns a traditional Scottish dance and John Craven tries his hand at bartering for goods.

**2.00 Sports Personality of the Year.** Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Jake Humphrey present from Birmingham's L.A. Arena. Includes a review of the year's highlights, before the Sports Personality of the Year award is announced. Subsequent programme subject to change.

**2.00 The Apprentice.** The two finalists launch a new high-quality alcoholic beverage before Alan Sugar reveals who he has chosen as the winner of this year's competition. Last in the series.

**11.00 BBC News at 11.** **11.15** FLEET: Broadway on a Wheel. (2007) Premiere. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. Weatherline.

**12.25** Sign Zone. Coast. (F) **1.25** Holly City. (F) **2.20** Tim Bods Time – The High Street. (F) **4.20** BBC News.

**6.00 CBeekies.** 2.00 CBB. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.10** The Nation's Favourite Christmas Food. (F) **12.10** Play It (F) **1.00** Escape to the Country. (F) **1.55** One Man and His Dog. **2.55** Live Olympia International Horse Show. **3.00** Coast. (F) **3.10** Film: Big Jake. (1971) Western, starring John Wayne.

**2.00 Shakespeare's Feast.** The arrival of spring sees the difficult harvest, a pony trek and the birth of new lambs – as well as a pleasant surprise for Ruth in the run-up to Mother's Day.

**2.00 The Holly and the Ivy: House of the Future.** St King and Dave Myers find out what mothers are cooking for their families over the festive period, including roast goose and baked cured lamb destined over birth to go.

**1.00 The Henry James of Robert Wilson.** The actor, best known for his role in One Foot in the Grave and Merlin, reminisces about his career on screen.

**10.00 British of the Day 2.** Including highlights of Chelsea v Manchester United.

**11.00 Middle Island: Shipyard.** A stand-up show by the outstanding comedian from his Stripped tour, showcasing the current brand of humour that has brought him success on both sides of the Atlantic.

**12.10** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (F) **1.00** Medium. (F) **1.10** Film: Modernist The Vampires. (1979)

**6.00 QTV: The Fluffy Club.** 2.5 Toonik. **2.25** Coronation Street. **11.55** This Morning. Sunday. **12.55** ITV News. Weather. **1.00** Coronation Street. 30 Years. 30 Moments. (F) **2.00** Film: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. (1989) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase. **4.20** Film: The Mummy. (1997) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser.

**6.00 Regional Programmes.** **6.15** ITV: News Weekend. **6.30** FLEET: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) The young wizard unleashes his fellow pupils into the evil Lord Voldemort. Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Gary Oldman.

**1.00 David Sackbut on the Outback Highway.** The Point star rides the famous train through Europe, exploring its rich history and discovering some of the real-life dramas the Orient Express has witnessed over the years.

**10.00 ITV: News Weekend.** **10.15** FLEET: Newsweek. (2007) Premiere. A 13-year-old girl accuses her sister's lover of a crime he did not commit, with tragic repercussions. Romantic period drama, starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy.

**12.10** Christmas: Tales. The Legends of Santa. (F) **1.10** The Zone. ITV News Headlines. **2.00** Motorpoint. UK. **2.25** ITV: Nightgreen. Text-based information service. **3.10** ITV: Morning News.

**6.00** Sail Mail. (F) **6.25** The Teale People. (F) **6.35** Planet Cook. (F) **6.55** Survival of the Fittest. **7.00** Freeports on 4. **7.20** T4: One Tree Hill. **7.55** T4: Holyoke. **11.15** T4: Tio Cae ft. Kylie Minogue – Video Exclusive & Behind the Scenes. **11.25** T4: Being HDuke at Christmas. (F) **12.40** T4: Ugly Betty. **1.00** T4: The Simpsons. (F) **1.15** Film: Annie. (1982) John Huston musical, with Albert Finney and Carol Burnett. **4.40** Deal or No Deal. **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.25** 4thoughts.

**6.00 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross.** Jonathan Ross counts down the nation's favourite games, gadgets and gizmos.

**1.00 The Secret Life of Us: Changed by Life.** Businessman Paul Ryan returns to Derby to see how money he donated to good causes has helped disadvantaged residents of the East Midlands city.

**10.00 Desperate Housewives.** Paul's malicious plan for Victoria Lane is put in motion.

**11.00 Father Ted.** Father Doug and Ted have their worst Christmas ever by getting lost in a cork's ginger department, leaving them in a highly embarrassing predicament. Dermot Morgan stars. (F)

**12.15** The Real Housewives of New Jersey. **1.15** American Football Live. New England Patriots v Green Bay Packers (Kick-off 12.00pm). **6.55** Abolstock 2010. (F) **7.10** One Tree Hill. **7.25** Sail Mail. (F)

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa the Posing Car. (F) **6.15** Film: The Flowerpot. (F) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (F) **6.40** Rupert Bear. (F) **6.50** Mico Spiker's Sunny Patch Friends. (F) **7.00** Mico Mico. (F) **7.05** The WetWeek. (F) **7.20** Fireman and Gadget Too. (F) **7.30** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (F) **7.40** Make Way for Morky. (F) **7.55** Mico Sheepdog. (F) **8.05** Little Princess. (F) **8.15** The Adventure of Bobbly Top Ball and His Best Friend Golly. (F) **8.20** Furby Christmas Special. (F) **8.30** Family. (F) **8.45** Golly. (F) **8.55** Olivia. (F) **9.0** The Mr Men Show. (F) **9.10** George Shrinks. (F) **9.20** Shrek. (F) **9.25** True Jackson, VP. **11.10** K-9. **11.25** Zoo Days. (F) **11.30** Zoo Days. (F) **11.35** Andre Rieu in Concert. (F) **1.05** Emergency: Ebers. (F) **2.0** Film: Saddle the Wind. (1958) **2.45** Film: A Muppet Christmas: Letter to Santa. (2008) Premiere. Puppet comedy, with Richard Griffiths. **3.10** Five News. **3.15** Film: Mischief. (2009)

**2.05 FLEET: A Christmas Carol.** (1989) Dickens' classic ghost story, starring Patrick Stewart.

**1.00 FLEET: Blood Wolf.** (2003) A former FBI agent recovering from a heart transplant tracks down his organ donor's killer. Thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Angelina Jolie.

**11.15 FLEET: The Bishop.** (1988) Action thriller, starring Richard Gere.

**1.20** SuperCasino. **1.35** Poker. **6.25** The Family Recipe. (F) **6.40** Harriet Harbord. (F) **6.50** The Milkshake Show. (F) **7.25** Thomas & Friends. (F) **7.35** Peppa the Posing Car. (F)

**ITV4** **6.05** The Xtra Factor. **6.15** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **6.40** Take Me Out. **6.50** The Xtra Factor. **7.00** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **7.10** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **7.20** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **7.30** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **7.40** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **7.50** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **8.00** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **8.10** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **8.20** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **8.30** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **8.40** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **8.50** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **9.00** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **9.10** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **9.20** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **9.30** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **9.40** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **9.50** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's Story. **10.00** The Xtra Factor: The Winner's 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**Tuesday****Thursday****Friday**

**BBC1** 9.00 Breakfast 9.00 CBBC 10.00  
 Christmas Saturday Kitchen 10.00  
 Film The Santa Clause 2 (2002) 10.00  
 Disney comedy adventure sequel, starring Tim  
 Allen. 1.00 BBC News 10.00 Weather 12.5 Regional  
 News 12.55 BBC News 1.00 Weather 1.30  
 2.30 Jimmy's Food Factory (R) 3.05 Film  
 (2005) Premiere. Phil: animated adventure, with  
 the voices of Owen Wilson and Paul Newman  
 3.55 Shrek the Hallé (R) 5.15 Film The Chronicles  
 of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008) Premiere  
 5.45 News 6.00 BBC News 6.00 Weather 6.30  
 7.55 BBC News 7.55 Regional News Programme  
 8.00 Weather 8.00 Easyside 8.30 M1: Family 8.30  
 9.00 Have I Got News for You Christmas  
 Special 9.30 The Graham Norton Show 11.00  
 The World Tonight 25 Christmas Kilnwood  
 11.00 News 11.00 BBC News 11.00 Weather  
 11.30 Weather 1.15 Film The Monks, Pt. 1 (1980)

**BBC2** 6.00 *Cbeebies: 6.00 Cbeebies: 7.00*  
**CBC** 8.35 *Animal Fancs* (R) **Wild** 10.00  
**Amica** (R) 3.30 *Climbing Great Buildings* (R)  
**9.00** **Amc** *The Fox and the Chick* (2007) **11.30**  
**Three Angels** (1941) **11.55** **Film: 3.00** **Amc**  
**New Power Generation** (1984) **2.55** **Movie** *Don Giovanni*  
*from Gluck's opera* **3.55** **Celebrity** *Exotic*  
**6.15** **Dail Army** (R) **6.45** *Comic from Kings* **8.00**  
**Education Film** **9.00** *White and I* (1996) **8.00**  
**8.55** *The Many Faces of Alton Steadman* **10.55**  
**Amc** *and Stacey Christmas Special* (R) **11.55** **The**  
*and Christmas of My Life* (R) **12.25** *The Goodies*  
*and the Beano* (R) **1.00** **Movie** *Amc* **2.30**  
**Close**

**ITV1** 5.00 Daybreak, 5.30 London, 6.25 The Morning Christmas Crocker, 9.00 Film: Gaffer, (1985) Family comedy, starring Christina Ricci, 10.00 The Christmas Movie, 10.30 Pantomime: Puss in Boots, 11.00 Weather, 11.25 Film: Miracle, 11.40 News, 12.00 Christmas Dinner, 12.30 Film: The Queen, (2006) 1.00 The Christmas Movie, 1.30 5.55 Countrywide at Christmas, 5.55 The Star Film with John Sergeant, 6.30 ITV News, 6.50 Weather, 7.00 Emmerdale, 7.30 Coronation Street, 7.50 The Christmas Movie, 8.00 Paul O'Grady's Christmas, 8.30 The Christmas Movie, 9.00 ITV News at Ten, 9.30 Weather, 9.45 Film: The Holiday, (2006) 12.45 Christmas Tree Angels, 1.00 ITV News/Christmas, 1.00 Film: Dead Calm, (1988)

[illegible][illegible]

# Mark Smith

Check out our  
great web  
site!

A close-up photograph of a tabby cat and a brown dog, possibly a Weimaraner, lying together. Both animals are wearing red and white Santa hats. The cat is on the left, looking directly at the camera with its green eyes. The dog is on the right, looking slightly away from the camera. They are both resting on a white surface.

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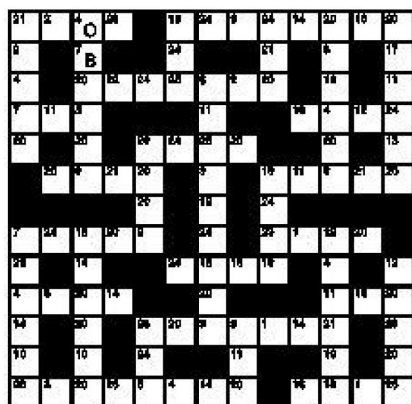


# Brain Gym

No.095

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

I	D	F	Y	Q	K	J	L	E	G	M	B	T
W	S	Z	C	X	V	A	O	R	U	H	N	P



# RainToday?

Don't get caught out in the rain or snow  
Visit [www.RainToday.co.uk](http://www.RainToday.co.uk)

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fill the same grid.

### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Using m-k-a-i-n? (4)
- Supply vessel surrounded by fish (7)
- Take the lid off something? (7)
- Unicef think has many a copier (6)
- Instrument used in only recordings (4)
- Hole-in-the-wall (4)
- The sun in America (4)
- It is in poor taste to let it stand (4)
- Change to a dress offering some choice (6)
- Scene made by politicians (4)
- She helps to film cake care netting (4)
- Learn about love in Italy (7)
- They supply hot water, naturally (7)
- Live about to return stolen property (4)

#### Down

- Ambiguous combination of noblemen and guide (6,7)
- Hide having a dog at home (4)
- Various complete form (4)
- Class a number as precise (4)
- Make it all over again, just for amusement (8)
- I'm the type to make an impression (7)
- A touching tale, perhaps? (4,4)
- Stay for an occasion (8)
- Probably the most many control (7)
- Given over a hundred and rebuses (4)
- Collector's piece that's odd to us (4)
- Getting associated? (4)

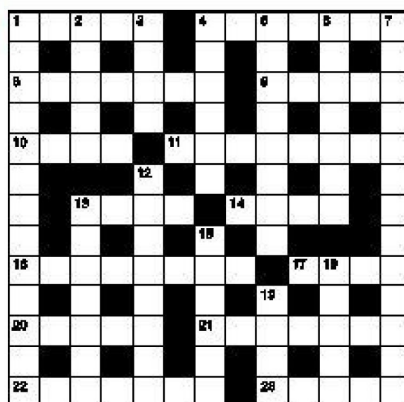
### Quick Clues:

#### Across

- Category (4)
- Flight (7)
- Essential (7)
- Unfinished (4)
- Ceremony (4)
- Exposition (4)
- Excuse (4)
- Grand (4)
- Decline (4)
- Skull (4)
- Small boy (4)
- Impress (7)
- Allegiance (7)
- Use (4)

#### Down

- Causing dispute (14)
- Witchful (4)
- Unfinished (4)
- Win (4)
- Hapless (4)
- Building (7)
- Impartial (14)
- Refutation (4)
- Punishment (7)
- Sharpness (4)
- Valiant (4)
- Hearty (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC Across: 3 Time bank, 8 Swot, 9 Hobbies, 10 Lawyer, 11 Hewitt, 14 King, 15 Squir, 16 Extra, 18 Extra, 20 Usher, 21 Tolly, 24 Coward, 25 Take apart, 26 Usher, 27 Prose, Down: 1 Well-vent, 2 Netweight, 4 User, 5 Hobbies, 6 Squir, 7 Oct, 9 Hobbies, 11 Hobbies, 12 Cash, 13 Cash, 14 Cash, 15 Cash, 16 Cash, 17 Hobbies, 18 Hobbies, 19 Hobbies, 20 Hobbies, 21 Hobbies, 22 Hobbies, 23 Hobbies, 24 Hobbies, 25 Hobbies, 26 Hobbies, 27 Hobbies.

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

	3	1		8			2	4
	5		9	6				
7					5		9	
		4		9	6	5		
			4	2				
6	9			5	1			
6		7					2	
			2	3	9			
3	2			7	4	1		

## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is A. Starting, necklace, bracelet, all items of jewellery.



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 <p><b>KINGSWINFORD</b> <b>STAINHILL ROAD</b> Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Carpets &amp; Curtains, off road parking. <b>\$305 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>COSELEY</b> <b>ROSEVILLE PRECINCT</b> First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Unfurnished. <b>\$230 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>KINGSWINFORD</b> <b>WESTCOTT CLOSE</b> Detached Property, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, Four Bedrooms, Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains. <b>\$270 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>TIPTON</b> <b>AVERN CLOSE</b> Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Unfurnished, Allotment Parking. <b>\$240 pcm</b></p>
 <p><b>TIPTON</b> <b>MORRIS AVENUE</b> Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Off Road Parking, Front &amp; Rear Gardens. <b>\$285 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>WOODSLEY</b> <b>HIGH STREET</b> Top Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge/Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Allotment Parking, Unfurnished. <b>\$325 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>GORNALL</b> <b>EASTON CRESCENT</b> Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Garage, Unfurnished. <b>\$350 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>LAKE SIDE</b> <b>KIRKSTONE COURT</b> First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Allotment Parking. <b>\$425 pcm</b></p>



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 <p><b>KINGSWINFORD</b> <b>COTLIFFE</b> First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Unfurnished, Small garden at rear, Off Road Parking. <b>\$285 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>BROCKMOOR</b> <b>WILSDON ROAD</b> Semi Detached Property, Chalkroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front &amp; Rear Gardens. <b>\$335 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>DUDLEY</b> <b>BOURNE STREET</b> Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Unfurnished, Allotment Parking. <b>\$285 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>BRIERLEY HILL</b> <b>TALBOT LANE</b> Large showhome/workshop 350 sq ft, additional showroom/office on first floor 600 sq ft, with kitchen and toilet facilities and parking for six cars. <b>\$1000 pcm</b></p>
 <p><b>NETHERTON</b> <b>SAM LANE</b> End Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Off Road Parking, Front &amp; Rear Gardens. <b>\$325 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>DUDLEY</b> <b>THE PARADE</b> Semi-detached, Lounge, Kitchen, dining room, bathroom with shower, three bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, carpets and curtains, unfurnished, DSO available, 10 pets. <b>\$350 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>WOODSLEY</b> <b>LAWNSWOOD DRIVE</b> Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Front, Rear &amp; Side Gardens, Off Road Parking. <b>\$450 pcm</b></p>	 <p><b>STOURBRIDGE</b> <b>PEIRFIELDS ROAD</b> Terraced Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Carpets &amp; Curtains, Front &amp; Rear Gardens, Furnished, Off Road Parking. <b>\$225 pcm</b></p>

## thechronicle

## Plant noise barrier is put on hold

PLANS to create a barrier of plants to block noise from a Black Country park could be abandoned if nearby residents agree.

It has been discovered that having the park open to view means greater security.

New fencing was installed near the children's play area at King George V Park, Wordsley, earlier

this year to replace a partially-collapsed wall.

Dudley Council had planned to plant fast-growing vegetation near the new fencing to provide a natural barrier to prevent noise reaching nearby homes in Lawnswood Road.

But the plan is now being reconsidered as the security of the park

and play area is improved by people being able to see inside.

Around 20 residents in Lawnswood Road and Bells Lane have been asked for their views.

If they say noise is a problem, the plants will be put in place. But if noise is not found to be a problem then no further work will be carried out.

## Tourism site is a step nearer

DUDLEY Zoo's chief executive has welcomed a major step towards a new tourist attraction to be centred on the zoo and nearby Black Country Living Museum.

Dudley Council has revealed it had bought two prime sites in the town centre, paving the way for development of the Castle Hill area.

It includes proposals to introduce ticket for the zoo, museum and Dudley Canal Trust which will be linked by a new road. A planned joint entrance off Tipton Road will provide better access to the three sites.

"Tourism is a major growth area across the country, growing faster than manufacturing, so is hugely important to the borough," said zoo chief Peter Suddock.

## Crystal

Dudley Council deputy leader Councillor Les Jones said it had bought the former Gala Bingo hall and Royal Brierley Crystal site for an undisclosed sum.

"The Castle Hill and zoo sites are major contributors to the regeneration of Dudley town centre and real progress is being made towards this vision," he said.

The Castle Hill redevelopment plans have been on the back burner since funding talks broke down with Advantage West Midlands in February 2008.

Council chiefs are looking at how to generate funding for the scheme.

The bingo hall, formerly Dudley Hippodrome, closed last September. The building's rear may be redeveloped to open up the view of Dudley Castle.

## Improved deal for workers

REDUNDANCY payments for long-term workers at Dudley Council will rise as it updates policy ahead of expected job cuts.

Changes affect employees who work in schools and other areas of the council during school holidays.

They will get a bigger slice of their annual pay if they are made redundant.

A report published on the council website states that until now, workers were paid a regular monthly salary, spreading out their earnings across the year. This was done by dividing their annual salary by 52.

## Ruling

However, a landmark employment tribunal in 2002 stated that was for "administrative convenience" and it was only fair for employees' annual salary to be divided by the number of weeks they actually work.

It means redundancy pay will rise because it will be calculated on the number of weeks worked rather than on smaller salary instalments spread over the year.

The ruling said: "It seems just that their redundancy payments should be calculated on the basis of weeks actually worked and not on the basis of a notional 52-week calculation, which takes into account weeks they did not work and for which they were not paid to work."

## Walkies! Dog club finds new home

## Nativity is brought to life



Dressed up for the Churches Together Christmas event on Kinver High Street are Gemma Hayes and Gordon Smith, with other cast members

THE nativity story was brought to life on Kinver High Street.

The production was part of a late night shopping event last Friday to encourage visitors back in after a long-running £900,000 roadworks scheme came to an end last month. It was jointly staged by members of St Peter's Church

and the Methodist Church and was written by Kinver resident Margaret Emuss.

St Peter's provided the choir which sang the story while the Methodist Church provided the actors. Organiser Suzanne Smith said it was the third time the production has been staged.

## Musical night at the hall

THE sound of music will return to Stourbridge Town Hall this month with a series of concerts.

The concerts, aimed at re-establishing the venue on the local music scene, kick off with the Stourbridge One Night Stand on December 21.

The line-up is a celebration of the town's musical heavyweights both old and new.

Miles Hunt and Erica Nockalls from local legends The Wonder Stuff will headline the event and are to be joined by Jacalls. The Lights and up-and-coming new band Arcadian Kicks.

The concert, organised by Dudley Music Events and Dudley Council, will be the first at the venue for many years.

James Stevens who organised the event said: "The gig has been staged in order to make sure that we keep some quality live music within the area at a time when we need it most. It also gives music fans a chance to see great artists on home turf without an expensive commute and high ticket prices."

Tickets, price £7, are available now from [www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment) or from the box office - 01384 812812.

## Family 'satisfied' with verdict on legion bug

THE family of a Dudley mother who died in a Legionnaires' Disease outbreak have spoken of their relief at the inquest verdict.

They said it answered some of their questions about how Patricia Ashton was infected three years ago.

An inquest jury at Smethwick found that the source of the bug which killed Mrs Ashton was industrial, although the exact site it came from is still a mystery. The family's lawyers are still investigating before deciding if it is possible to make a legal claim against any company.

The 51-year-old former care assistant had battled cancer and was in remission when she was rushed into Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with breathing difficulties on August 5, 2007.

She died two days later from pneumonia caused by the legionella bacterium.

The jury returned a verdict of death from industrial disease on Mrs Ashton, of Newland Grove, Holly Hall.

## Remission

Son Ian Ashton, aged 33, of Queensway, Stourbridge, said after the hearing: "It's been a stressful three years and our solicitors have worked very hard to get us through to today."

"We're happy with the outcome because we know now it was an industrial cause, even though we don't know where it came from."

Mrs Ashton, who lived with her other son, Craig, 30, had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2004 but had

Patricia Ashton with son Ian

undergone chemotherapy and had been in remission for 18 months when she caught Legionnaires' Disease. Her daughter-in-law, Ian's wife Kate, said: "She was rushed into hospital on my birthday and it was horrible to see her afterwards on breathing devices." She added: "All she ever wanted was to be a grandmother but it wasn't until after she died that I found out that I was pregnant with our first child, Spencer, who is now two. "We also now have a daughter, Maisie, who's nine months old. "She never knew she was going to be a nan and never saw her grandchildren."



## Council joy over valuation

SANDWELL Council is worth around £30million more than it was thought. An audit of assets by KPMG showed council housing was worth £17.3m more than it was originally valued. The council's shares in Birmingham Airport meanwhile increased the value of its assets by £12.4m. Its stake stood at £20.1m of the airport's £327m value. The audit meanwhile showed £21.3m worth of Government grants had been counted as expenditure instead of income. Councilor Steve Eling, Sandwell's finance boss, said: "The two big, key components are assessing the value of the council's housing stock and its shareholding in Birmingham Airport."

"The audit does not raise our budget or give us any extra money, it's rather an issue of valuations. The main thing for the public is external auditors have told us we have strong financial management, strong governance and good value for money."

# Buses leave elderly struggling to hospital

## Pals stage fundraising show

TWO teenage sisters helped raise more than £550 for charity with a fundraising evening starring them and their friends.

Cydney and Reagan Shepherd, aged 14 and 13, organised the show after they heard about three-year-old Lewis McKenzie-Farnell's battle with kidney cancer, and decided to help. They recruited friends Matt Pittaway, aged 15, Billie Jeavons, 14, Tia Dhami, 12, Tom Withers, aged nine, Katie Teitge, 13, and Megan Fisher, aged 15, to join in.

It was at Beacon Centre for the Blind, Wolverhampton Road East, Sedgley, on Saturday night for friends and family and residents. It raised £200 for the centre and £366 for Lewis.

The girls' grandmother Sue Steadman, aged 56, said the pair live near Lewis and his family in Westfield Road, Sedgley.

Lewis's mother Fiona O'Connor "was overwhelmed that the kids had done all that for her little boy." Mrs Steadman added.



The Shepherd sisters, Cydney and Reagan and friends at the Christmas show

ELDERLY people and families in Coseley are struggling to get to hospital appointments because there are no direct bus routes, it has been claimed.

Residents in the area have to catch two buses to reach both Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Ward councillor Susan Ridley raised the issue at a Dudley Council cabinet meeting but was told there were limited funds for the authority to set up a bus service.

She said: "It is really difficult for some people. Lots have been complaining about it. If someone is going to hospital, it is for a reason, so they are usually too infirm to walk very far to a bus stop, or even get two buses. This needs addressing."

Councillor Ridley said Coseley had recently lost the 582 bus route running through Wallbrook to Dudley. So residents now have to walk to Birmingham New Road, to catch the 126 to Dudley bus station, and then get the 246 to Russells Hall. To reach New Cross, a two-bus journey via Wolverhampton city centre or Bilston could take nearly an hour.

Councillor Ridley raised the issue at the meeting in response to the council's new Health Inequalities Strategy. The strategy states the authority will "create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities" by improving access to transport.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transportation, said bus routes to the hospitals had been withdrawn in recent years as they were often half empty. He added: "Certain services can, where possible, be subsidised through Centro but if they aren't used enough then it's a problem."

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# MOTERING NEWS AND REVIEWS

## CHRONICLE

### MOTERING

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The Japanese have delivered the goods with this revised diesel, says Richard M Hammond

## Mazda whistles up a real winner

LIKE the rest of Mazda's range of vehicles, the Mazda3 model is no 'also-ran'.

Mazda may not have the UK market share of volume brands such as Ford or Vauxhall, but that doesn't mean it lacks the respect of car buyers.

Pound for pound, cars like the Mazda3 hatchback can comfortably be considered alongside well-established competitors.

A number of factors have played their part in the Japanese brand's rise and chief among them is the company's focus on delivering what car buyers want.

### Ethos

The vehicle line-up concentrates on the key sectors: Small hatchback, family hatchback, D-segment rep-mobile, people carrier, two-seater sports car and SUV crossover. There's little flim-flam to be found, just well-crafted examples of the cars people want and need more than any other.

With this ethos in mind, Mazda has made some revisions to the popular Mazda3. Firstly, there's no more saloon for the UK market. The boot version of the Mazda3 was a handsome but rare sight, accounting for a mere six per cent of UK sales.

Secondly, the 1.6-litre diesel engine has been replaced with a new version offering greater economy and lower emissions.



The interior is concise but practical



Saloons are replaced by hatchbacks

In an era of technological advances, Mazda's decision to simplify the inner workings of the Mazda3's smaller capacity diesel engine is a brave one. The outgoing 1.6-litre diesel unit was a twin-cam, 16-valve design, the kind that until not so long ago would have warranted extra badges to inform passers-by of its sophistication.

The new unit still offers tur-

bocharged performance, but uses a single camshaft and eight-valves.

Less glamorous it may be, but the reduced weight and frictional losses from the additional parts help the revised model to produce greater efficiency and lower CO2 emissions.

Regardless of the core layout, the new unit is hardly a step backwards. As with so many modern diesel engines, God is in the detail. Super-



The Mazda3's ride and driving quality have survived the car's change of power plant

sharp piezo injectors have been put to use in the fuelling system, allowing greater control of fuel delivery.

A new variable-geometry turbocharger is used, too, offering a better spread of power delivery across the rev range. Equally important for fuel consumption when the vehicle is used for shorter journeys, an exhaust gas recirculation cooler bypass system allows the engine to

warm up faster when starting from cold.

The net result is a fuel consumption improvement of 2.2 per cent and CO2 emissions down 1.7 per cent, while power is up by six bhp. Crucially, the torque figure has been raised by 22lb/ft and now offers peak performance between 1,750 and 2,700rpm. This makes the engine much more flexible and results in

less gear changing using the new six-speed manual transmission.

Engine noise is well constrained although the turbo emits a distinctive whistle.

Thankfully, the Mazda3's driving and ride quality experience has survived the change of powerplant. Sharing a platform with the Ford Focus, a car widely considered the best in class in terms of handling, has always been a bonus for the Mazda3.

An advanced suspension system offers a consistent feel at the wheel with body roll suitably tempered for a more aggressive approach. At the same time, the ride quality is good.

### Interior

Also unchanged is the accommodating and neatly designed interior. There's an upmarket, stylised feel in the front that counters the occasional appearance of some harder plastics. The contemporary design has a distinctive feel but is highly ergonomic and the body feels well enough to prevent claustrophobia.

Decent rear legroom is aided by the five-door layout, making the Mazda3 a practical compact family hatchback.

It's a case of taking one step backwards to take two steps forward with the revised Mazda3 1.6 Diesel. Focusing on what buyers want; consistent quality, style and performance alongside improved economy, the company has delivered again.

## Motor Market

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52	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
53	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
54	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
55	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
56	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
57	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
58	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
59	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
60	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
61	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
62	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
63	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
64	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
65	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
66	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
67	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
68	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
69	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
70	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
71	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
72	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
73	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
74	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
75	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
76	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
77	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
78	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI	£11,995	3Y/50K
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French firm will offer specially prepared competition version of the Megane to rally teams

# New Renault ready to rally



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The bumper's F1-style 'blade'



The Renaultsport Megane N4 comes in kit form and provides an affordable entry into the sport of rallying

Renault is to make a rally version of its Megane Renaultsport 250 which aims to set new standards for racing on asphalt.

The striking Renaultsport 250 has won acclaim for the quality of its chassis and engine and is now the basis for the N4 rally car, aimed at private teams and drivers.

The new model draws on a heritage of group N Renaults stretching back over a quarter of a century and including the 5 GT Turbo, R11 Turbo, R21 Turbo, R19 16V, Clio Williams and Clio Renaultsport.

According to the FIA, which determines the technical regulations, group N is open to mass production cars, more than 2,500 identical units of which must be produced over a period of 12 consecutive months.

Created in 1982, group N is the category in which the cars are the closest to production models. The regulations permit very few limited modifications in order to keep costs down. Only minor modifications can be made to the engine, for example, compared to the production version – the ECU and exhaust line can be modified in accordance with strict rules.

These constraints work to the advantage of the Mégane Renaultsport N4, which gets the full benefit of the technology used on the production model. The Performance independent steering-axis front suspension design has allowed the engineers to put together a chassis that combines traction, directional stability and driving comfort in complete safety.

The use of three-way adjustable shock absorbers also allows the settings to be adapted to all driving styles. To achieve perfect traction, the gearbox has a limited slip differential.

Under the bonnet, the performance of the 2.0-litre 16V turbo engine has been enhanced and puts out 265hp, with torque of 470 Nm. It is linked to a five-speed H-pattern gearbox, developed specifically for this purpose.

On the strength of its experience in the field, Renault Sport Technologies has sought to design an innovative, reliable and high-performance package that also takes on board the notion of cost control at every stage of development.

Recognisable at first glance, the sporty design of Mégane

Renaultsport is emphasised by the front bumper with its integrated F1-inspired aerodynamic blade, as well as the rear diffuser and centrally positioned exhaust outlet.

A priority in every phase of design and development, safety is an essential part of all the production and competition models developed by Renault Sport Technologies.

The Mégane Renaultsport monocoque has been strengthened and stiffened to bring both active and passive safety close to perfection.

The bodyshell is fitted with a welded roll cage, which complies with FIA regulations.

Two bucket seats fitted with six-point harnesses, as well as an electrically-controlled automatic fire extinguisher system and a cut-out switch are all included as standard in the Mégane Renaultsport N4 racing kit.

The intention has been to make Mégane Renaultsport N4 accessible to all drivers, and be both easy to handle and economical to run.

Mégane Renaultsport N4 is to be sold by Renault Sport Technologies in the form of a kit comprising all the specific parts.

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## Supermini deal which will beat the VAT rise



Deals will be available on Perodua Myvi models such as the Sport, above, until the end of December

PERODUA has announced a special offer aimed at customers looking to beat the VAT increase and buy a new car before the end of the year.

The firm will include a free accessory pack worth over £350 to anyone buying a new Myvi, Myvi Sport or Myvi SE during December.

On a Myvi or Myvi SE, the free accessory pack consists of remote central locking with two remotes and side mouldings with 'Myvi' motifs.

On the Myvi Sport it consists of remote central locking with two remotes and a chrome tailgate trim.

The offer is available from authorised Perodua dealers and

there are no hidden catches – the accessories will be provided and fitted free of charge.

In addition, the Malaysian firm is extending its £1,000 'swappage' deal until the end of the year. This means the car continues to be available from as little as £6,799 on the road.

### Integrated

The spacious Myvi supermini has proved a big hit in the UK and features air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, power steering and an integrated radio/CD player as standard.

The Myvi SE is aimed at the customer looking for a more luxurious interior and features dark

grey leather seats.

The Myvi Sport boasts a stylish body kit consisting of front, side and rear skirts including imitation quad exhausts. Colour matched side mouldings with chrome 'Myvi' motifs and chrome door handles add the finishing touches to the vehicle and alloy wheels complete the sporty image.

Inside, carbon fibre finishes are fitted to the instrument panel and door panel switch surround continuing the sporty look throughout the car's interior.

Both automatic and manual versions of the Myvi have achieved Euro 5 compliance which means they can continue to be sold from 2011 onwards.

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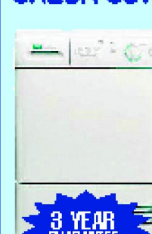
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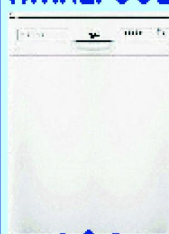
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# sport

## Pitch puts cricket club in the right lane

STOURBRIDGE Cricket Club has secured £55,000 to create an all-weather practice pitch which will be used by hundreds of players from the area.

The club is ready to start work on the three-lane facility at its Memorial Ground base, in Ambleside High Street, with the project

due for completion in February. Cash for the scheme has been provided by the England and Wales Cricket Board and the Istock Cory Environmental Trust.

### Lanes

The practice pitch will be divided into three lanes, with the surface of each replicating a dif-

ferent type of playing surface. The facility will not only be open to the club but also schools and other clubs in the area.

A disused and overgrown section of land at the ground, which was used as tennis courts years ago, has been cleared to make way for the new pitch.

Markings have already been laid out and the club had hoped to

start work in the site a fortnight ago.

But this has been temporarily delayed due to the bad weather – although club officials say the official opening date for the pitch is still February 5 as planned.

It is the latest in a series of funding boosts for the club which have taken place over the past five years.

## Youngsters rewarded for sports excellence

YOUNG sporting stars from Dudley have been recognised in a glittering awards ceremony honouring their achievements over the past year.

The eighth annual Awards for Sporting Excellence event saw 35 youngsters from 13 borough schools receive their award from champion Olympic rower Debbie Flood at the ceremony at the Saltwells Centre, Netherton.

Among winners was 17-year-old Dudley College student and hammer-thrower Chad Rhodes, who received the special award for outstanding achievement for the second time.

The event also rewards pupils who give something back to sport by coaching other.

In this category Adam Barnett, 17, who also studies at Dudley College, won the Leadership and Contribution award for foot-

### The full list of winners

Abbey Smith, Dudley College; Step into Sport Programme	School; Football	School; Swimming
Adam Barnett, Dudley College; Football & Generic Sports with Special Educational Needs Groups	Dan Brown, Ridgewood High School; Football	Megan Willetts, Windsor High School; Swimming
Sophie Bishop, Dudley College; Step in Sport Programme	Jitesh Jivan Patel, Old Swinford Hospital School; Cricket	Samantha Meese, Kingswinford School; Golf
Francesca Tibbetts, Summerhill School; Dance	Edward Taylor, Old Swinford Hospital; Cricket	Florence Gowler, Peter's Hill Primary School; Gymnastics
Grace Nicholls, Coseley School; Swimming	Owen Williams, Old Swinford Hospital; Cricket	Bradley Hill, Windsor High School; Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
Sophie Harbach, Windsor High School; Tennis	Samuel Smith, Old Swinford Hospital; Rugby Union	Luke Timbrell, Coseley School; Ten Pin Bowling
Lauren Clay, Windsor High School; Cricket	Dan Wale, Summerhill School; Cricket	Jessica Pegg, High Acre School; Netball
Ben Hadley, Dudley College; Association Football	Emma Baker, Tenterfields Primary School; Swimming	Chad Rhodes, Dudley College Athletics; Hammer throwing
Christopher Knight, Dudley College; Football	James Bragg, Crestwood School; Football	Amy Stevenson, Kingswinford School; Badminton
Ryan Greenwood, Kingswinford School; Football	Lauren Sanders, Ellowes Hall School; Swimming	Philippa Humphrey, Edgecliff High School; Rounders
	Aimee Sanders, Ellowes Hall School; Rounders	

ball and generic sports. Ms Flood, who won a silver medal at both Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008 as well as being named world

champion in 2006 and 2007, said: "It was a fantastic evening. Events like this are inspiring. Sport is important on all levels – team

work, leadership skills and putting in hard work to achieve something.

"What I do is normal – it's what I do – but for these youngsters it is very special.

"I work with young offenders and I've seen for myself how sport teaches them interpersonal and life skills."

Martin Duffield, strategic manager for PE in School Sport, who organised the awards, said the evening had been a popular part of the schools' calendar since 2002.

"We're very proud of what we do in Dudley. The importance of saying 'well done' and of sharing your achievements can clearly be seen here tonight."

Winning pupils were from Tenterfields Primary, Crestwood School, Ridgewood High, Old Swinford Hospital, Peter's Hill Primary, Kingswinford School, Windsor High, Edgecliff High, Dudley College, Summerhill School, High Acre School, Ellowes Hall School and Coseley School.

## Heathens offer cut-price deal

DUDLEY Heathens are offering fans cut-price season tickets in time for Christmas.

The club, aiming to stage 12 to 16 home meetings next season, have announced adult prices of £110 and concessions £60 if paid for by December 31.

From January 1, prices will be £120 adults and £70 concessions.

Club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We believe these prices represent excellent value for money and they are a great idea for a Christmas present for any Heathens fan."

Details and how to buy online are available on website [www.dudleyheathens.co.uk/admission.php](http://www.dudleyheathens.co.uk/admission.php)

Admission prices for the new season have also been set at £10 adults (the same as last season), £6 concessions and £2 children.

The former Cradley club's opening night for the 2011 season is Tuesday April 12 at Monmore Green against the USA touring team.

Heathens have confirmed Ashley Morris as their first rider signing and will talk to Tom Perry.

# ROCK SOLID GLASSBOYS

A STRONG second-half performance and a Sam Rock winner saw Stourbridge overturn a half-time deficit.

The home side fell behind after just four minutes when a long-range drive from Jamie Gould took a deflection that left Stourbridge keeper Lewis Solly wrong-footed.

Brackley continued to shade the early stages and went close again on 24 minutes as Owen Story fed Tom Winters who turned and hit a low shot past Solly's left-hand post.

Having made a sluggish start, the Glassboys stepped up their game towards half-

### Stourbridge 2 Brackley 1

time with Ben Billingham flashing a shot wide from the edge of the box in the 32nd minute.

Seven minutes later Ryan Rowe was tripped just outside the penalty box and Billingham saw his 20-yard free-kick beat Nathan Thackeray but bounce down off the crossbar, with Leon Broadhurst heading the loose ball against the outside of the post.

### Pushed

The Glassboys pushed hard immediately after the restart and on 49 minutes Josh Craddock's header was tipped over by Thackeray.

Brackley might have added a second in the 52nd minute but Story ended his

strong run by drilling a shot inches over the crossbar.

In the 62nd minute Rowe combined well with Rock down the left before striking a low shot that Thackeray pushed round for a corner.

The Glassboys' endeavours finally paid off in the 65th minute. A deep left-wing corner from Drake led to Nathan Bennett getting in a header that was handled on the line by former Kidderminster player Marcus Bignot.

Red card and penalty was the verdict and although Billingham's spot-kick was parried by Thackeray the midfielder slotted home the rebound.

Stourbridge swept forward again to take the lead in the 69th minute.

Craddock provided a low diagonal ball into the box where Rock got ahead of his marker to steer a first-time shot beyond the reach of Thackeray.

The home side could have added another two minutes later as Rowe found Linden Dovey in space but he screwed his shot wide of the upright.

Soon afterwards the hosts had a let-off as a quickly-taken throw-in enabled Francis Green to find Winters who broke into the left-hand side of the box before hitting a low angled shot that beat Solly but was cleared by Jamie Oliver.

Eight minutes from time Drake should have put the result beyond doubt after Dovey capitalised on a slip by Josh Green to set up his team-



Brackley's Marcus Bignot handles the ball on the line. The offence brought a red card and a penalty



Celebrations as Sam Rock scores. Pictures: Tony Marsh

## Saxons put dent in title challenge

### Cambridge 23 Stourbridge Saxons 27

STOURBRIDGE secured an impressive victory at title hopefuls Cambridge, overhauling a 15-3 deficit to grab the win.

Tries from Tom Jarvis, Tom Richardson and Cameron Brown paved the way with Ali Bressington kicking 12 points.

It was the Saxons winger who opened the scoring with a third minute penalty only for Ben Spencer to reply for the home side moments later.

The remainder of the opening period belonged to Cambridge and a brace of tries took them clear at the break, writes David Lawrence.

South African winger Jaco du Toit bagged the opener on 20 minutes. The Cambridge pack drove to within 20 metres of the Saxons line before the ball was swung out to the left flank for the pace ace to cut inside and sprint over. Spencer kicking the extras.

Flanker Darren Fox saw red on 26 minutes, the Cambridge skipper taking a swing at one of the Stourbridge forwards.

But the dismissal seemed to galvanise the home side and they stretched their lead five minutes before the break when Spencer gathered the ball from a line-out before weaving his way to the corner.

### Cohesion

Too many errors and a lack of cohesion had marred the Saxons' play in the first half, but the second began in the best way possible with Richardson sprinting away from a scrum before the ball was worked to James Rodley and finally to Jarvis who dived in. Bressington kicked the conversion.

Spencer and Bressington traded penalties before Cambridge prop Mark George dived in to



Tom Richardson pushes Stourbridge forward

putting over the kicks. Richardson then made a last-minute try-saving tackle on replacement Will Martin who looked destined for the line after sweeping past two tackles.

A late yellow card for Charlie Hayter did little to dampen Stourbridge's joy, the win maintaining their top five place ahead of the Boxing Day clash with Coventry.

The Stourbridge Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, December 16, 2010.

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